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7th Year

NFL 10th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED

President Nguyen Huu Tho Reaffirms NFL Home and Foreign Policies

IN HANOI

A commemorative meeting was held on December 18, 1970 under the auspices of the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front and its Hanoi Committee as well as of the RSVN Social Representation for the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (Dec. 20, 1960). Attending were President Ton Duc Thang, First Secretary of the VNWP Central Committee Le Duan, Prime Minister Pham Van Dong and other Party and State leaders. Speeches were delivered by Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Fatherland Front CC and President of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions, and Nguyen Phu Soai, Acting Head of the RSVN Special Representation.

A congratulatory message was sent to President Nguyen Huu Tho by President Ton Duc Thang.

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

A big rally was organized by the NFL Central Committee to mark the Front's 10th founding anniversary. Present at the gathering were representatives of the armed forces, self-defence units, shock-brigade youths, guerrillas, workers,

peasants, religious organizations, intellectuals, industrialists, tradesmen, students, revolutionary veterans, and families credited with services to the resistance. Members of the NFL Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and representatives of various political parties and mass organizations were also among the audience. Speeches were made by Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL CC and of the Advisory Council of the PRC, and Trich Dinh Thuan, President of the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and Vice-President of the Advisory Council.

Extracts from President Nguyen Huu Tho's address are given below:

OUR people have gone through 25 years of war against a criminal imperialist aggression. More than anybody else, we are longing for peace, necessary for the reconstruction of our devastated country. But the peace we want must be a genuine peace, in independence and freedom, founded on the respect and guarantee for our national rights and our right to self-determination, not a peace in servitude, a Nixon-type peace.

(Continued page 8)

General Vo Nguyen Giap:

"WE SHALL WIPE OUT ANY AGGRESSOR"

A commemorative ceremony was held on Dec. 21 in Hanoi to mark the 26th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam People's Army (Dec. 22) and the 24th anniversary of the Nationwide Resistance (Dec. 19).

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Pham Van Dong expressed the single-mindedness of the whole Party, people and army in their response to the Dec. 10 Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the DRVN Government: defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate reunification of the country. "The Vietnamese people will, shoulder to shoulder with their Lao and Cambodian brothers, drive the American invaders and their henchmen out of the Indochinese peninsula," he said.

General Vo Nguyen Giap, Vice-Premier and Defence Minister, delivered a speech recalling the fighting and successful path travelled by the Viet Nam People's Army during the past twenty-six years and extolling the achievements of the people and armed forces of the two parts of the country and those of the Lao and Cambodian neighbours in the present resistance against US aggression.

The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, he said, is an independent and sovereign country. No such country in the world will allow its enemy to freely reconnoitre its territory or infringe upon its independence and sovereignty. Any encroachment upon our air space, territorial waters and land will surely be punished by our armed forces and people. We have the right to keep watch on, and bring down, American planes of any type should they trespass upon our air space. We have the right to muster our troops anywhere to defend our Fatherland. We have the right and are determined to wipe out any invader of our country. Such a right is our inalienable national right. Our people will never tolerate any US adventurous breach of this sacred right.

The US imperialists are also nurturing the dream of preventing the North Vietnamese people's assistance to their Southern kin and kin. The Vietnamese nation is one. Rivers may run dry and mountains may wear flat, but that fact will remain unaltered!

(Continued page 4)

ON US PILOTS CAPTURED IN NORTH VIET NAM

(PAGE 4)



Militia-women on patrol

GOVERNMENT COUNCIL LAYS DOWN TASKS FOR 1971

A year-end meeting of the Government Council recently took place under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Phan Van Dong, to lay an official communique made public on December 21.

Reviewing the fulfillment of the State plan and the management of State budget for 1970, the Government Council was gratified at the important progress made in the supply of the front and in the rehabilitation and development of economy, notably in agriculture, industry and capital construction.

It also underlined the importance and the great tasks of the year 1971, especially those in agricultural production, capital construction, development of such first-class means of production as coal, electricity, timber, building materials, and of consumer goods, with a view to improving the people's living standard and strengthening the material and technical bases of socialism.

It called on the people to increase their vigilance, combat-preparedness and determination to successfully confront all US war acts and measures against the North and to discharge the obligation of the North, at the great rear area, towards the South, the great frontlines.

On December 15, 1970, US aircraft fired rockets on Thanh Yen village, Dien Bien Phu district, Lai Chau province.

The next day 8-52's dropped bombs over Huang Lap village, north of the DMZ.

In a statement, the DRVN Foreign Ministry strongly condemned these US war acts.

THE DRVN in Brief

Le Duang, First Secretary of the VNPW Central Committee sent warm congratulations to Edward Gierok on his appointment as First Secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee.

On the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL, an exhibition named "Ten Years of Glorious and Successful Struggle" was opened in Hanoi on December 19.

A cultural display was also held in Hanoi with 400 pictures, artistic photographs, sculptures and numerous books and magazines depicting the South Viet Nam people's fight.

On Dec. 19, the DRVN Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries organized two shows in Hanoi: one on the Agricultural Achievements of the Mongolian People's Republic and the other on the Up-to-date Chinaware of the Czechoslovakia.

Over 200 sportsmen and sportswomen from all North Viet Nam took part in the recent 13th cross-country in Hanoi under the auspices of the Committee of Physical and Sports Training, the Ho Chi Minh League Youth Union and the paper *Tien Phong* (Vanguard). Prizes were awarded to Quang Binh province, Hanoi city and the Railway General Department. The female team of Quang Binh and the male team of Hanoi won first prizes.

36th Plenary Session of Paris Conference
on Viet Nam (Dec. 23, 1970)

US PREPARATIONS FOR NEW ATTACKS AGAINST THE DRVN SCORED

Mr Xuan Thuy, chief of the DRVN delegation, accused the US ruling circles of preparing for fresh war acts against the DRVN: sending more US planes to South Viet Nam and Thailand and more aircraft-carriers into the Tonkin Gulf.

Mr Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the RSVN PMG delegation, also bared Nixon's bellicosity in talking peace while ordering only one-day cease-fire for Christmas and the New

Year's Day (PRG truce would last three days for each occasion).

"The RSVN PRG," declared Mme Binh, "wants the South Vietnamese not only to have a peaceful time during these festive days but also a lasting peace to build their country in freedom. It is the American troops and those of the satellite countries of the US camp to be reunited with their families."

250th Birth Anniversary of

Le Huu Trac, Alias Hai Thuong Lan Ong,

a Great Physician and Humanist

(1720-1791)

he gathered nearly 3,000 formulae to deal with 126 diseases of general medicine, surgery, gynecology, pediatrics, ophthalmology, traumatology, etc.

He took notes on 17 complicated cases he had cured and on 12 incurable diseases.

He was not only outstanding for his scientific research, but also for his lofty deontologic principles and his humanism. He said: "Medicine is a humane art which must preserve life, look after the weak and the poor; it must give assistance to the people, regardless of profits and honours." First of all, he ministered to the poor. He said, "The have-nots can find plenty of physicians, but the have-nots can hardly afford a good one. We must pay particular attention to them. Much has been said of him who, apart from giving free attention to poor patients, fed them up to speed up their recovery."

To his works, fruits of hard work, he gave such modest title as *Y Tong Tam Linh*, which means: "What I have learnt from famous physicians."

This great physician was also a writer and a poet. He devoted his little leisure time to composing poems, over one hundred of which were to be found among his writings on medicine. One of his works, the *Thuong Kinh Ky Su*, related his journey to the capital city to attend to Lord Trinh Sam's son. It was a picture of the corrupt court life. And one can read between the lines a condemnation of the feudal society and its fetters. The *Thuong Kinh Ky Su* belonged to the great current of realism of Vietnamese literature in the 18th century.

The Vietnamese people have paid tribute to this great physician by calling him "Hai Y Ton Hai Thuong" (The Great Doctor of Hai Thuong) and by venerating his memory. Forty years after his death his name was inscribed at the Thanh Long Temple of Medicine.

He laid emphasis on hygiene and prophylaxis. In the conditions of Viet Nam, a poor agrarian country, he prescribed simple formulae within financial reach of everyone. In his books *Hanh Gian Tran* (Indispensable Simple Formulae) and *Bach Gia Tran Tang* (A Hundred Great Physician's Treasury)

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(*) These works were written in Chinese. The *Institute of Eastern Medicine* has translated them in Vietnamese and published them in 16 volumes.

Sept. 2, 1945

Sept. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N.

is 25 Years Old

WITH the recovery of national independence following the sweeping August 1945 Revolution, Viet Nam like a chrysalis breaking its cocoon, rose from a long torpor. The heavy colonial and feudal fetters were shattered.

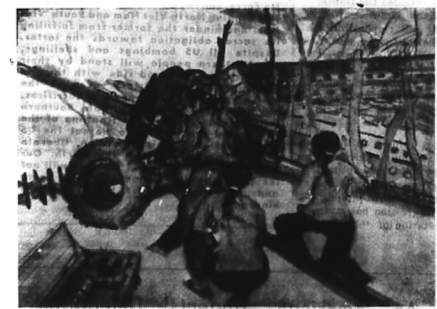
Every branch of activity: political, military, economic and cultural, opened its door to the creative labour of an entire people at long last freed from bondage, inspired by dramatic victories over the foreign aggressors and invigorated by radical social reforms, notably the establishment of new production relations, that is to say new relations between man and man.

Two major imperialist powers — French colonialism and the USA — have vainly tried to check the march of the Vietnamese people; economy and culture have not ceased to forge ahead in the DRVN in spite of the ordeal of a long drawn-out war.

It is around this historical background that painting has gone through a new stage of development in Viet Nam.

seeking a more or less lasting escape, to optium or in adventures. For others, the reproduction of some stereotyped, easily saleable models, or the imitation of some masters of Western art represented the supreme purpose of art. Still others — and they could be counted on the fingers of one hand — managed somehow to produce a few original works. But on the whole, artistic creation in those times remained meagre, without vigour, without life, without originality.

THEN came the Revolution. Powerful gusts of fresh air shook and woke up the artistic circles. The painters, haversacks on their backs, went to live in the jungles or to take part in military assaults against enemy strongholds, side by side with the combatants of the People's Army, lying in the same hut, eating out of the same bowl and working in the same rice-fields with the peasants. They discovered with unending amazement, after the exhausting climb of a steep slope, the sceneries and people of those regions where none of them had ever set foot on.



Female gunners in Quang Binh.
(Aquarelle by Tran Van Can)

IN the colonial society, the painter, a rare specimen amidst an intelligent but illiterate people, found his land.

Life to him was taken on a meaning and grown richer with a new content with each passing moment. It has drawn them into its eddies and whirlwinds, elevated them and carries them away. None of them can indulge indefinitely in his intellectual speculations and dreams.

Since then they have been engrossed in the discovery of their native land and their people.

For their part, the ordinary masses of the people, less advanced intellectually and professionally, have also discovered the necessity of art. From this necessity have sprung ideas and

feelings of art, and the desire to enjoy painting. They ask the artists to give voice to their aspirations. Some of them set to paint.

Here, art tries first of all to speak the language of life.

Life captures the artists' attention. It overflows from all parts, not the life of a few individuals, or a given class but that of an entire people. Painting tries to tell something, though not always successful, but at least the artist no longer feels himself different from others, alone, not understood. He partakes of that life with all his mind and all his heart. He tries to grasp the meaning of that life which



moves forward. Art is full of its subject. Subject and not object. That new life, ebullient, is full of themes, and the duty of art is just to see, to feel, to grasp its urgency, magnitude and depth. In that life, the future is as real as the present and realism in no way means simple reproduction of reality, but also transfiguration of all that is in gestation in the real, that is to say of all the hopes that fill the hearts of men.

The artist communes with all these hopes and his work is first of all a matter of the heart, of sentiment. Here there is no such barrier of sensibility which in many countries stands between the artist and his people. The Vietnamese artist ardently loves his motherland now "retrieved" and renovated. The love for the country, the people and labour, the love for the human kind pervade all works. A great tenderness suffuses his strokes, whether it is the glow of sunlight bordering the verdure of a village or the gentle light that bathes the faces of children learning to read. Bitter scenes, atrocious as they are, never bear the stigma of despair because at the end of the war and the sufferings which go with it, shines the light of independence and freedom.

Man remains the main subject. He is seen everywhere, man of all trades, of all social strata, all nationalities, growing up, leaping up, making war, weaving, spinning and building. Even when he is not there in the flesh, when there is only a row of trees, a corner of the jungle, man is never absent.

In renovating himself, man sees things in a different light.

It is always the same buffalo with its raucous breathing and its recent horns, whose lumbering steps have for centuries set the rhythm to the country life. Yet this buffalo has become today, after the land reform, the personal property of the farmer that tends it. The same bamboo hedge girdles the village but what is taking place behind it? The "notables" of the past, with their endless carousals, with their arrogance and cruelties, have disappeared once and for all behind the same bamboo hedge people are today discussing science, technique, home and international affairs.

The mutual affection between the liberated peasant and the buffalo that has found a true master, the merry bustling of the villages are

so many other new things which are blossoming in the country and the hearts of men, all this evidently must be given form and life in painting. Nevertheless, while he has little trouble choosing his themes he still has a long way to go in the search of appropriate techniques.

THE symbols and decorative motifs of medieval art no longer suffice. Even the achievements of the traditional popular art, however great their artistic value, remain handicrafts incapable of reflecting life in all its richness, especially in all its profundities. It is safe to say that the Vietnamese artists, painting first of all with their hearts, have tried every technique, consciously or not. For the moment, technical research comes second, but this incontestable weakness of the present Vietnamese art may be a source of hidden riches in the future. Because no school of art nor master can have the presumption to impose formulas on others, however elaborate they may be. Each paints in his own way, sharing with others only the prime target of their art: to render life in all its richness and fullness. Only barred are the juggleries of pure abstraction. This is a painting with an open heart, without detour, easily accessible to all.

The Vietnamese painters, involved with the rest of the people in a long and gruelling fight for national independence and socialism, have to wage in the artistic field a daily struggle against material difficulties.

One should not forget that all along the past twenty years they have had to work in difficult conditions. In the years 1945-1954, the artist carried in his rucksack just a few pencils, a note-book with which he jotted down a scenery or a personage, standing beside a trench, in the shade of a tree or during a halt. The studios installed in the free zone had very little equipment. US aggression has generated new and innumerable difficulties. Even in the few years of a comparative peace from 1955 to 1965, in a country still very poor which had moreover to devote his all to the building of a new economy, the means at the disposal of the painters were indifferent.

Vietnamese painting, on the other hand, possesses a particular national unknown to the artists of other countries: lacquer. Handicraft lacquer is found in Japan and China but specifically Vietnamese has not ceased to flourish in the last years thanks to a tireless perfecting of technique and a opening of artistic expression. Lacquer gives a new dimension to colours, brings out joy in all its splendour, thickens, darkens, and renders in a particularly vivid manner exuberance and optimism. At present, Vietnamese painting can boast a wide range of lacquer paintings, unique in the world.

A new painting is shaping up in the history of Vietnamese art. Quite young, it is still groping for its way but already it has been firmly rooted in the national reality and is growing and maturing in spite of great material difficulties because it is supported by the march of an entire people and is striving to identify itself with it.



DRVN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT ON US PILOTS CAPTURED IN NORTH VIET NAM

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the DRVN made on Dec. 23, 1970 the following statement on the US pilots captured in North Viet Nam:

In line with the lenient and humane policy of the Government of the DRVN, all US pilots captured in North Viet Nam have been allowed to exchange letters with, and to receive parcels from, their families. The latter have also been getting news from their next of kin.

The competent services of the Government of the DRVN have handed by request the list of all US pilots captured in North Viet Nam to a number of personalities of good-will in the United States and in other countries. The Government of the DRVN does not feel it incumbent on it to give it to the US Government.

As is well known, the US Government has been waging in Viet Nam one of the most cruel wars of aggression in history. The US imperialists have dropped on North and South Viet Nam a tonnage of bombs several times bigger than the tonnage used in all theatres of operations during World War II. In North Viet Nam, US air and naval craft attacked with the utmost savagery cities, towns, villages, hospitals, schools, dams, pagodas, churches, etc. In South Viet Nam, hundreds of B-52 bombers and thousands of aircraft of other types have been indiscriminately dumping bombs and toxic chemicals on extensive areas in the country, side and even in cities. Carrying out a "kill all, burn all and destroy all" policy, the US aggressive troops have massacred women, children and old people and razed to the ground many villages, as typified by Son My, Ba Lang An, etc. The US Government has flouted international law, disregarded morality and slighted human conscience. The monstrous crimes resulting from the US war of aggression against the Vietnamese people have aroused strong protests and stern condemnation from world public opinion.

The US pilots captured in North Viet Nam are men caught in the acts of crime against the Vietnamese people. They come within the jurisdiction of the DRVN, an independent and sovereign country. In 1957, when adhering to the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, the DRVN made an explicit reservation on Article 85: "The DRVN declares that the prisoners of war prosecuted and condemned for war crimes or crimes against humanity, in accordance with the principles of the Nuremberg trial, shall not benefit by the provisions of this convention as stipulated by Article 85."

However, the Government of the DRVN has been unwaveringly pursuing a lenient and humane policy vis-a-vis the US pilots captured in North Viet Nam. They have been allowed to correspond with their families on a regular basis; they enjoy

adequate conditions of existence; those wounded or sick have been given adequate medical care. A number of them have been released. On the other hand, the US troops and their agents in South Viet Nam have murdered or put to the most horrible torture Vietnamese patriotic fighters and civilians captured by them; they have instituted a shocking penitentiary regime as evidenced by the "tiger cages" in the Poulo Condor (Con Son) prison, the massacres of prisoners in Thu Duc, Tan Hiep, etc., have drawn angry protests from world and American public opinion.

With regard to the settlement of the question of militarymen captured in the war, the Government of the DRVN has declared full support for the views of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN as presented in the September 17, 1970 proposal which made clear that in case the US Government declared it would withdraw from South Viet Nam all its troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp by June 30, 1971, the parties would engage at once in discussions on the release of captured militarymen. It thus provides a good opportunity for the US Government to put an end to its criminal war of aggression in Viet Nam and to achieve an early settlement of the question of US militarymen captured in Viet Nam.

The humane policy toward captured US pilots and the sensible and reasonable views of the Government of the DRVN have enlisted widespread approval in the world. Yet for its part, the US Government has carried out very perfidious and wicked manoeuvres. It has made every attempt to misrepresent the above-mentioned policy of the DRVN Government. It has made hypocritical professions of "humanitarianism," in the "prisoners-of-war issue," etc. It has been using this to cover up its odious crimes against the Vietnamese people, to conceal its war acts against the DRVN, to justify prolonged US military occupation of South Viet Nam, and to camouflage its schemes to extend the war of aggression. The US threat to attack detention camps and take away captured US pilots has further revealed the frantic and reckless nature of the Nixon administration. The US imperialists must bear full responsibility for any adventurous act of theirs. In response to the Appeal of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Government of the DRVN dated Dec. 10, 1970, the Vietnamese people are determined to duly punish any inconsiderate encroachment by the US imperialists on their sacred national rights.

So long as the United States refuses to bring its war of aggression to a close, more Americans and more Vietnamese are to be killed or captured and the crimes of the US aggressors will pile up. The pertinacity of the US Government in prolonging and expanding the war of aggression has given further lie to its pious pretestation of "human-

itarianism" in the so-called "prisoners-of-war issue."

Though its tricks are very cunning and crafty, the US Government cannot possibly evade its responsibilities towards tens of thousands of Vietnamese and Americans killed or captured, and towards tens of thousands of Vietnamese and American families upon whom great sufferings have been inflicted by the US war of aggression.

In Paris, on Dec. 22, DRVN Delegate General Mai Van Bo, informed the press that the Delegation General of the DRVN in France has received Mr. John E. Nolan, representing Senator Edward M. Kennedy; Mr. James Gordon Lowenstein, representing Senator William Fulbright; and Mr. Rennie Davis, representing Mrs. Cora Weiss, President of Callifam, and sent Mrs. John E. Nolan President Tan Duc Xuan's letter in reply to Senator Edward M. Kennedy's letter; to Mr. James Gordon Lowenstein Premier Phan Van Dong's letter in reply to Senator William Fulbright's letter; and to Mr. Rennie Davis a letter from Foreign Minister Nguyen Day Trinh to Senator Robert Mc Govern as well as that from the Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with American People to Mrs. Cora Weiss, President of Callifam.

The DRVN Delegate General stated on this occasion that at the requests of the Senators and Callifam, the responsible services of the Government of the DRVN had asked him to deliver to the Senators and to Callifam the list of American pilots captured in North Viet Nam.

General Vo Nguyen Giap

(Continued page 1)

No force can deprive the strong sentimentality binding North Viet Nam and South Viet Nam and hinder the former from fulfilling its sacred obligation towards the latter. Despite all US bombings and shelling, the Northern people will stand by their Southern brothers and side with them in the fighting till total victory. Even at the cost of greater hardships and sacrifices, our undoubted and indomitable Southern fellow-countrymen in the frontline of the Fatherland are certain to defeat the US aggressors and their henchmen, liberate the South and preserve the North. Our Southern countrymen and fighters will not let pass any US aggression against the North and any crime against their Northern kindred."

An American Students' Delegation Visits North Viet Nam

At the invitation of the Viet Nam Students Union and the Committee of Solidarity with the American People, a delegation of American students visited the DRVN. It also met with a delegation of the South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union in Hanoi.

After exchanges of views, the delegation of the three organizations of American students and South Vietnamese students signed a joint communique denouncing the policy of aggression of the US ruling circles, their criminal "Vietnamization" program and the invidious charges contained in Nixon's five points. The communi-

que demanded that the US withdraw from South Viet Nam all its troops before June 30, 1971 and renounce the use of the Thien-Ky-Khiem clique against the Vietnamese people.

The American students' delegation was received by Premier Phan Van Dong to whom it expressed its admiration for the national unity, revolutionary optimism and unshakable confidence in the victory of the Vietnamese people. The DRVN Premier thanked the American students and people for their courageous opposition to the US imperialist war against the Vietnamese people, an opposition which will certainly end in success.

TEN YEARS AFTER THE EMERGENCE OF THE NFL

BY EMILIO JARZI AMADE
(Italian journalist)

I landed in Saigon late in June 1961 owing to the inopportune of a Diem's policeman when the Viet Nam which was carrying me from China, where I had lived for several years, to Italy, called at Saigon for three days. The cop who checked the passports did not pay any attention to where I came from, so I was able to mingle with the crowd after being authorized like the other passengers to visit the city as tourists.

Immediately after landing, I strolled about in downtown Saigon, and was struck by a thing. Two years earlier, in an interview granted to me in Hanoi, President Ho Chi Minh, recalling his stay in Italy in the thirties when fascism was in the saddle, said of Mussolini: "He was seen everywhere...," pointed on the walls, fronted pages in newspapers. In Saigon, Ngo Dinh Diem was also seen everywhere: on the walls or on newspapers' frontpages. In the streets, posters showed the "fact of life" in the North according to the Saigon and American propagandists: men looking like skeletons or drawing a plough in place of a bulldozer, hammers and sickles threatening to spread all over Viet Nam. Nothing new under the sun: twenty years later in another continent ten thousand miles away, it was the same themes, the same arguments, the same gimmicks as I had seen under the Italian fascist regime. Together with the passengers, I rode in a bus

to see what the guide—a young student speaking English and French—described to us "the most important monuments in the capital city." The vehicle soon stopped in front of the first "monument," and our guide said: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is the US embassy." We burst out laughing, the monument was not a ripping one indeed. A few minutes later the bus stopped along a wharf and the guide pointed his finger to another "monument": two torpedo-boats which he said "have been presented by the US to our President to fight communism." The third "monument" was a block of buildings going up which "will be the billets of Americans who are on their way," he commented.

Either our guide was a propagandist for the Diem regime then a very stupid one, or he was one of those "who so intelligently" declared that the US means put at his disposal by the regime against the regime and the Americans. In both cases, it was obvious that the Diem rule had nothing to rejoice at. The National Liberation Front had just been set up a few months earlier and Saigon papers were speaking everyday of the armed and political struggle stubbornly waged in the provinces. At that time, I learnt from the press of the presence of a certain professor, Eugene Staley, coming to lick into shape a "pacification" plan. He was expected after this visit to set on foot the

so-called "Staley-Taylor plan" to "pacify" Viet Nam in eighteen months. The eventual outcome was known to everybody.

At that time, US way over the Diem regime was already total, but the Americans did not appear frequently in public; they rather preferred to work behind the scenes. However I had an interesting experience. Before landing, I had been warned: "Wear neither jacket nor neck-tie. The Americans are dressed like that and they are in bad odor here." I did not heed the advice. The result was that I was hustled on the sidewalks, ill-treated in the restaurant and stared at with little sympathy. I was immediately to the conclusion that the Americans had not an easy life here. However, Johnson, then President of the United States, who had visited Saigon a month earlier, declared he had never met with a hostile look. His political myopia was to cost him dear.

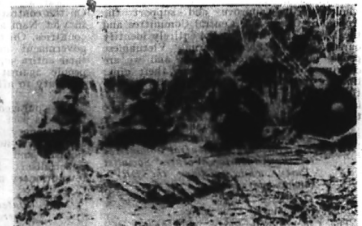
Two years later, I came back to Hanoi to attend an anti-imperialist conference. It was on the eve of Ngo Dinh Diem's downfall. The Conference referred to his regime as a "rotten" one and never had a political guess proved to be so accurate. On my way back to Europe I read the front-page news of Diem's death. In Saigon I had seen a photo of that dictator "donating his blood" to those who fight communism," as he said. Now the snap-shots carried by newspapers showed him covered with his own blood, the logical end of a life at the beck and call of imperialism.

I returned to Viet Nam in 1965, at the early stage of escalation. I was there again in 1970 for the longer stay and this time had the possibility to see South Viet Nam. From the northern bank of the Ben Hai river (*), nearly ten years after the foundation of the National Front for Liberation and after the slope of the special war whose beginning I had got a glimpse of in Saigon, of the local war waged by over half a million US troops

and the air war of destruction in the North. What one saw was the very picture of that reality. North of the Ben Hai river, blue smoke smudged the sky; the peasants were burning weeds or tilling their fields up to the bank of the Ben Hai. South of that river, there was smoke too, but the smoke of explosions of bombs from American planes, distinctly seen, fell once after the others. The colour of the smoke was not blue but reddish and blackish, the colours of destruction. No farmer working, but a scorched soil lying fallow, a rusty American landing craft destroyed by the liberation forces on the sandbank, a desert where napalm was being used to suppress what remained of the jungle. Neither puppet nor US troops were in sight; they were digging in their posts one could spot some kilometres off by a watch-tower, or occupying denuded hill tops. These were the very image of isolation into which the people's war had driven them, islets protected by

camp, where Diem's men had carried out a massacre which shocked the conscience of the world. The fact that their morale and determination to fight remained intact despite the sufferings endured, led me to say that with people of that stamp, their struggle, however hard and fierce it might be, could end only in victory. I met other victims of Diem-US repression and, of late, combatants jailed for long years in Poulo Condor's tiger cages. I inquired from one of them how they had been able to survive such horrors. The answer which I had anticipated was not late in coming: "You see we have never ceased fighting and never yielded to the enemy, so we have been able to survive and to resume our combat positions in the struggle."

How simple and natural! Though frail and weak, man is stronger than these B-52s which would mangle us in my nights at Vinh Linh by the drone of their jet engines and the explosion of a dozen tons of bombs dropped to



Rudimentary but effective weapons

B-52 indiscriminate night bombings. From the northern bank of the Ben Hai, one could see, after midnight, fire, fireworks and flares released from enemy posts and hear explosions of hand-grenades and shelling, the clatter of machine-guns of liberation army men and the enemy return fire. I learnt later from Liberation Radio that that night the enemy had licked the dust at the hands of the liberation forces. But Saigon Radio kept mum, as if nothing had happened.

On the northern bank of the Ben Hai river, I sensed the distance of thousands of kilometres from Viet Nam to Italy, can be covered in two days by plane, fifteen days by rail, over one month by sea. But there are things for which that distance does not exist and which remain the same in the minds of the people. The US presidents who have visited Italy have never seen the Nixon crowd about in the past weeks in Italy only by chopper: 15,000 policemen were not enough to hush up the protest of the masses who chanted such war cries as "Ho Chi Minh" and "Viet Nam."

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(*) at the 17th parallel

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

Hoang Minh Giam, Chairman of the Viet Nam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, recently sent Christmas greetings to peace-loving Americans.

"I want to particularly convey my best wishes," he said, "to all American fighters for peace and democracy who for the time being are still jailed or prosecuted by the US administration. This Christmas is the second since Nixon took office in the White House, but hundreds of thousands of GIs still have a hard time in the jungles of Viet Nam, a tropical land far from their home."

"The difference between this Christmas and the previous one is that the Nixon administration has extended the war to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula and that it is devising new escalations." Mr. Hoang Minh Giam remarked. He also called on the American people to co-ordinate their efforts with those of the Vietnamese so as to force the Nixon authorities to halt the war and repatriate American youths.

Worldwide Support for DRVN December 10 Appeal

Resolutely supporting the DRVN position made clear in the Appeal, the GDR insists that the US imperialists are not only to all their war acts against the DRVN and to all, and unconditionally pull out their troops from South Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people must be able to exercise their inalienable right to settle their own affairs themselves.

Loyal to the principles of proletarian internationalism, the GDR closely associates herself with the heroic Vietnamese people and will continue granting them an effective aid and support till US aggression ends.

(Statement by Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the German United Socialist Party and Chairman of the State Council of the GDR while receiving the DRVN ambassador on Dec. 18.)

On behalf of the Party Central Committee, the Hungarian government and people, we wholeheartedly approve and support the Appeal of the NVN Central Committee and the DRVN Government. We entirely identify ourselves with the fraternal Vietnamese people in their sacred struggle and we are convinced that they will gain their aim: liberate the South, protect the North, reunify their country and successfully build socialism. We will continue all possible assistance to their heroic effort until final victory.

(Statement by Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Workers' Socialist Party, while receiving the DRVN ambassador on Dec. 17.)

The Czechoslovak Party, government and people have, in the past as at present, given by all possible means to the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression a moral support and material assistance. We

greatly admire the Vietnamese people for their grim determination and great courage in the struggle against the most ferocious enemy, powerful ringmaster of imperialism. This attitude which is ours is once more confirmed in the joint declaration of the Warsaw Treaty countries. As in the past, we wholeheartedly support the people and our Vietnamese comrades laid down in the appeal of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN government.

(Statement by H. Hanes, alternate member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Chairman of the Federal National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, in a talk with the DRVN ambassador on December 14, 1970.)

US bombings of North Viet Nam and the US preparing opinion for new attacks against that country, thus extending and prolonging the war, are not signs of strength of the US. On the contrary, they are signs of its defeat in Viet Nam as well as in other Indochinese countries. On this occasion, the NFL party, government and people of Algeria reaffirm their entire support to the heroic Vietnamese people against US aggression: we deem it our duty to afford you this assistance.

The courageous struggle of the Vietnamese people is part and parcel of the worldwide revolutionary movement directed against colonialism, neo-colonialism, Jewish expansionism and imperialism headed by US imperialism; it is a stimulant for this revolutionary movement.

(Statement by Caid Ahmed, Secretary General of the Algerian NFL Party, during a meeting with the DRVN ambassador, December 17, 1970.)

* See also our last issue.

BRITISH Prime Minister Heath declared on December 30, 1970 to CBS that he highly approved of Nixon's Viet Nam policy and said that Nixon's decision to attack North Viet Nam was quite justified.

[These statements appear as no surprise to us. In fact, since many years now,

Hanoi Press Opinion

Heath Brings Disgrace to Great Britain

the British government has been toying the US line, chiefly with regard to the Viet Nam problem, thus turning Great Britain into a satellite of the US. Under H. Wilson, the British government was, more than any other, lavish

of praise of the measures taken by the US to step up and widen the war but kept mum about the heinous crimes perpetrated by the US aggressors in Viet Nam. The British government has been one of the very few governments in the world to have seen perseveringly backed the war of destruction unleashed by Johnson against the DRVN.

Since the return of the

Tories to power, with the formation of the Heath government, Great Britain has added itself to the task of taking up the cudgels for the US criminal acts in Indochina, thus flinching from its responsibilities as a co-chairman of the Geneva conference on Indochina.

The incongruous and dan-

gerous statements made by Heath are an encouragement to the US aggressors, a discordant note, and odious act which clashes with the interests of the British people.

Progressive opinion in Great Britain and in the world demands that the Heath government relinquish this policy of complicity with the US imperialist aggressors in Viet Nam, and refrain immediately from embarking on this road which would lead it to completely betray its responsibilities as a co-chairman of the Geneva conference on Indochina.

NHAN DAN (The People) Dec. 22, 1970

NEW PLAF SUCCESSES IN RACH GIA PROVINCE

700 ENEMY TROOPS WIPED OUT IN ONE DAY

EARLY in December, the puppet army launched Operation Tran Hung Dao 6 to pacify the Upper U Minh region parallel to the U Minh Campaign in Lower U Minh, Ca Mau province.

On the night of December 3, the People's Liberation Armed Forces flattened their operational base and overran the CP of the US naval base on the Xeo Ro canal. In this engagement alone the PLAF knocked out 420 adverse troops, and a river convoy composed of 6 war vessels.

By 3 o'clock of December 14, the PLAF men had attacked enemy groups on the Xeo Ro canal. After a two-hour clash the PLAF won control of the battle field, wiped out a complex base of Regiment 33, puppet Division 21, including the CP of this regiment, a CP of puppet river convoy, a battalion, 4 companies and one artillery company. In all the enemy suffered a toll of 600 men and 10 launching-boats sunk and 8 105 and 155 mm guns destroyed. The PLAF men then intercepted the enemy reinforcement and inflicted another hundred casualties.

In the meantime, the liberation armed forces of Ca Mau province in Ong Doc district mounted devastating actions on the nights of Dec. 1 and 8 on Battalion 2, Regiment 32, puppet Division 21 and other troop groups of this regiment on the Cai Tau river. The setbacks wrought by the Ca Mau people and armed forces on the enemy U Minh Campaign, south of U Minh forest, together with those won their Rach Gia counterparts on Operation Tran Hung Dao 6, frustrated the scheme for "pacification" of U Minh forest and at the same time the "river flotilla tactics."

Thus the puppet army have been sustaining stinging reverses in the current dry season after a very poor show in the rainy season in spite of countless modern war means supplied by the Americans.

Ten Years of Construction in South Viet Nam Liberated Areas

A Developing Education

In the past ten years, despite the atrocious war of the US imperialists and their quelling, the people in the free zone have done their best to keep education going and to protect educational establishments. Their slogan is to build new schools on old sites or underground if the old ones are destroyed, to split them into many classes and to scatter them, to keep secret the school emplacements, to be classed only at night, in the day or at night and in any place. Teachers have been clinging to their schools, with a single eye to the training of the future generations, while the pupils cling to their masters and their schools; both of them are ready to take up arms when the enemy came and to resume classes when he was driven away.

In 1970, the liberated zone has 7,400 schools with nearly one million population from pre-school classes to secondary education. Compared with the 1968-1969 school-year, in the 1969-1970 year the pupil body was up from

Central Trung Bo, where the complementary schooling drive is underway. Up to 1966, 10,000 cadres at all levels had completed elementary education in complementary classes. In the 1966-1967 school-year in Western Nam Bo about 10,000 were grown-up attending complementary schools. In 1968, an additional number of 2,800 people knew how to read and write, 6 villages and 28 hamlets were recognized as having done away with illiteracy. In the same year, Truong Long village, Chau Thanh district, Can Tho province, though subjected to 12 B-52 air raids in a month, managed to liquidate illiteracy.

In My Tho province, in 1968, 710 more people attended 61 literacy classes and complementary classes newly set up. In the hilly region of Quang Nam province (Central Trung Bo) there were 12 literacy classes in 1966 and 159 in 1967 with 2,600 pupils. In Ninh Thuan province, in 1968 61 new literacy classes and one complementary class were open-



An evening class in the liberated zone
Sketch by Huynh Phuong Dong

TEN YEARS AFTER THE EMERGENCE OF THE NFL

(Continued from page 5)

Sometimes that struggle goes on quietly. In fact, last year, in complete silence, a youth in Leghorn hoisted an NFL flag on top of the mainmast of an American warship calling at that port. In September last year, it was a silent procession that the crowd staged to lay wreaths before President Ho Chi Minh's 10-metre high picture. But no silence in front of Nixon; no silence in front of the American services in Italy; no silence in front of the factories whose workers have downed tools. What is the most important about this movement is probably the fact that the action to support Viet Nam has succeeded in rallying the broadest sections of the

liberal youth — be they communist, socialist, catholic or non-partisan — by bringing about a new positive situation in the already broad anti-imperialist front. It can be said that, by its example, Viet Nam has given a strong fillip to the struggle of our people. This is a debt we owe to the Vietnamese people. Now, ten years after the foundation of the NFL, while its armed, political and diplomatic battle is going on with redoubled intensity, the question is whether our people will ever be able to pay this debt entirely.

(Article appearing in the Dec. 11, 1970 issue of the newspaper Hong Nhat — Reunification)

1.5 to 2.5 times. To meet in 1969 the ever-growing educational needs of the people, 600 schools were opened in Western Nam Bo and 300 in Central Trung Bo.

At present, virtually all school-aged children in the liberated zone go to school. Meanwhile, in the enemy-controlled areas, a great number of children of the same age cannot do the same due to the shortage of schooling facilities. In this connection, in its March 19, 1970 issue, the Saigon paper "Tienuyen" (Frontline) revealed that in 1969 over 90,448 primary school children having filled in their application were denied education because of shortage of schools or because schools had been turned into concentration camps under the US "accelerated pacification" plan. According to USIS of January 5, 1970, enrolment in elementary schools averaged only 20 per cent of children from 12 to 16, i.e. those qualifying for them.

A striking feature in education in South Viet Nam liberated zone is that, from a spark kindled by the NFL cadres, education has spread to all the regions inhabited by minority people. Children of various nationalities can now learn their mother-tongue parallel with standard Vietnamese.

In the Western High Plateaux, 17 minority nationalities have their own scripts. At present, schools are functioning in all villages there for minority children with their own vernaculars as media.

The complementary education movement has also gained momentum for the good of adults and cadres. In Kontum province (Western High Plateaux) in mid-1967 there were 5,679 people freed from illiteracy, in the 1966-1967 school-year 192 villages (or 80 per cent of total villages in this area) ran continuation schools. As present illiteracy has been wiped out in the liberated zone of Nam Bo and

ed for 872 cadres at district level. In 1969 illiteracy was completely ended in Binh Son district, Quang Ngai province, as the remaining 3,300 people had been taught how to read and write.

From a few patriotic educators at the start, the teaching staff has risen to tens of thousands. In 1963, the Patriotic Teacher's Association was set up with Prof. Le Van Huan as its president. Today in the liberated zone, many teachers' schools are training personnel for general education and complementary education. In 1968 and 1969, there were 3,000 newly-graduated teachers in Central Nam Bo. In 1969, Can Tho province opened a school for 640 teachers and educational workers (95 educational cadres, 73 school-managing cadres, 192 teachers of complementary education, 168 teachers of general education). In the Western High Plateaux, the education of minority children is attended to by teachers of minority origin from special schools reserved for them.

With the development of education, cultural, information and press activities have become more versatile. At present, there are plenty of clubs, news-broadcasting towers, song and dance troupes and film projection teams set up by the people.

Seven newspapers and eight magazines are published in the liberated areas by the central level, including the South Viet Nam's *Sirigga* (in French and English) which is the mouth-piece of the RSVN PRG. There are also three major publishing houses of which "Co Giang" (The Bee) specializing in literature for children.

In addition, there are in each region, province and town, at least seven newspapers of other periods. In the Western High Plateaux, ten newspapers are run by the Tay Nguyen Autonomous Region NFL.

President Nguyen Huu Tho...

(Continued from page 8)

the policy of national unity, elaborate a constitution of a national and democratic character and choose a coalition government representative of the SVN people's will for peace, independence, democracy, national concord and neutrality.

We are in favour of a policy of militant solidarity and mutual support and assistance with the Kingdoms of Laos and Cambodia on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We advocate the establishment of diplomatic relations with all countries, irrespective of their political systems, including the USA, in accordance with the 5 principles of peaceful co-existence, and acceptance of economic and technical aid to countries with no political strings attached.

The reunification of the country is our most cherished national aspiration. In continuance of the nation's historic tradition and in compliance with the earnest desire of the people of the two zones, in view of the present situation, we believe in restoring the country's unity step by step, by peaceful methods, by means of discussions and agreements between the two zones, without either side's coercion on the other and without foreign interference.

In the meantime, the two zones will normalize relations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and respect for each other's political system and home and foreign policies, strive to enlarge economic and cultural intercourse and help each other in construction.

Rising Popular Indignation Against GIs, Pak Jung Hi Mercenaries and Saigon Troops

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR A FEMALE PRISONER KILLED IN JAIL

The Saigon Nov. 28 (not Nov. 29 as reported in last issue — Ed) atrocities against female prisoners at Tan Hiep jail took a toll of 40, which all traces. There remained 9 seriously wounded and moved to Cho Quan hospital in Saigon, and over 100 others seriously hurt.

The Committee for a Better Prison Regime and the Women's Movement for the Right to Live voiced their protests against the puppet administration and claimed an end to brutalities but to no avail. The Union of Women Relatives of the Arrested staged a demonstration in front of this prison for permission to visit their kith and kin, but their request was ignored. The news that young lady Le Thi Nga, a captive of twenty-two, was

put to death, came as a shock to the Saigonese. A memorial service for her took place on December 21. It was attended by above 300 representatives of the Committee for a Better Prison Regime, the Committee for Relations with the Detainees, the Women's Movement for the Right to Live, the Union of Women Relatives of the Arrested, the Teachers and Students' Parents' Committee Against the Repression of Students and Pupils, the National Movement of Self-Determination, the People's Front to Secure Peace and many other political and religious organizations.

It was a Saigonese riposte to the previous crack-down on the Dec. 6 memorial service at Tinh Xu, Ngoc Binh (Saigon).

A GIRL AND A YOUTH MURDERED BY PAK JUNG HI TROOPS

The South Vietnamese townsmen's wrath at the Americans' shooting dead of the schoolboy Nguyen Van Minh at Quy Nhon provincial capital on December 7 had not abated when two days later in An Nhon town, 10km from Quy Nhon, a 15-year-old schoolgirl was cut down by Pak Jung Hi mercenaries. On December 10 the latter once again killed a young man in a mass murder demonstration.

Many more actions against those atrocities erupted. The pupils and students' Dec. 10

protest was harshly dealt with: 22 people wounded, 10 arrested, a BBC correspondent bludgeoned and many reporters kept off.

On December 11, the Saigon Students' General Association sent an "ultimatum" to the American Command, demanding it to hand over the murderer to the Vietnamese for trial. 25 students started a hunger strike. In the afternoon college parades in the street, shouting slogans against the Vietnamese for trial, 25 students and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries and set fire to an effigy of Nixon.

On December 12, some 200 Saigon students marched on the US Embassy. Thousands of field police and army muscled against the demonstrators and as a result Phan Trong Ham, Vice-President of the Saigon Students' General Association, was wounded.

The next day the Association stated that the "guerrilla warfare in the city" began in many places, the city, US military vehicles and American troops were mobbed by students. The US Command was therefore forced on December 14 to restrict to the minimum its military movements in the city.

On the same day, 140 Saigon professors declared for the protesting students.

On December 19, the Saigon Students' General Association decided that a 15 days' school-strike would be staged if their claims were not met.

MESSAGES OF GREETINGS

(EXCERPTS)

From the Soviet Union

To Mr NGUYEN HUU THO,
President of the Presidium of the CC of the
South Viet Nam NFL,

Mr HUYNH TAN PHAT,
President of the PRG of the RSVN,

In the past ten years, the NFL as an organizing and leading force has mobilised the South Vietnamese people for a struggle full of abasement against the US interventionists and their agents. All true patriots fighting for the South Vietnamese people's peace, freedom, self-determination right, democracy and social progress have rallied under the banner of national liberation. Under the leadership of the Front, all the South Viet Nam patriotic forces have been waged an armed and political struggle against the imperialist aggressors and dealing them well-deserved blows.

The legitimate struggle of the South Vietnamese patriots enjoys the support and deep sympathy of the Soviet people, and of all socialist, progressive and anti-imperialist forces. The Soviet people fully approve the social political solution to the South Viet Nam problem proposed by the NFL and the RSVN PRG. The US should stop immediately all its acts of aggression and withdraw immediately its troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam according to a set timetable. The South Vietnamese people have the right to freely settle their internal affairs without foreign interference.

Moscow, December 19, 1970

L. BREZHNEV,
Secretary General of the CC of the CPSU

N. PODGORNYY,
President of the USSR Supreme Soviet

A. KOSYGIN,
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR,

Messages of greetings were also received by NFL and RSVN PRG leaders from other socialist and nationalist countries. The 10th founding anniversary of the National Front for Liberation was marked by big rallies in many capitals of the world.

From the PR of China

To Mr NGUYEN HUU THO,
President of the Presidium of the CC of
the South Viet Nam NFL,

Mr HUYNH TAN PHAT,
President of the PRG of the RSVN,

Born amidst the storms of revolution, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has traversed a glorious fighting course over the past decade. It is the exponent of the fundamental interests of the South Vietnamese people; it is the great standard-bearer in the South Vietnamese people's war against US aggression and for national salvation; it has performed signal deeds for the sacred cause of liberating the South, defending the North and re-unifying the Fatherland.

The heroic South Vietnamese people have persevered in a great people's war for a full decade and have beaten that superpower, US imperialism, out of its wits and driven it into hopeless dilemma. Your successes have greatly inspired the peoples of small countries with the revolutionary fighting spirit of daring to resist aggression by big powers and have given a powerful impetus to the struggle of the peoples of the world against US imperialism. The Chinese people are grateful to you, and so are the peoples of the whole world.

It is the bounden proletarian internationalist duty of the Chinese people to render support and assistance to the peoples of Viet Nam and of the other countries of Indochina in their war against US aggression and for national salvation. No matter what difficulties and hazards the peoples of Indochina may encounter on their advance in the war against US aggression and for national salvation and no matter what frantic military adventures the US aggressors may embark on, the 700 million Chinese will firmly stand together with you and give you all-out support and assistance till complete victory in the war against US aggression and for national salvation.

Peking, December 19, 1970

MAO TSETUNG

Chairman of the CC of the Chinese Communist Party

LIN BIAO,

Vice-Chairman of the CC of the CCP,

CHOU EN-LAI,

Prime Minister of the State Council of the
People's Republic of China.

President Nguyen Huu Tho Reaffirms...

(Continued from page 1)

The 10-point overall solution and the 8-point initiative put forth on Sept. 17, 1970 by the NFL and the RSVN PRG have made clear our reasonable peace stand.

We are ready to cease fire and stop the war when the South Viet Nam people's fundamental national rights are guaranteed. On Dec. 10, 1970, our delegation to the Paris Conference declared:

"1. A cease-fire will come into force between the SVN PLAF and the troops and military personnel of the US and the other foreign countries in the US camp immediately after the US government has pledged to withdraw from SVN all troops and military personnel of the US and the other foreign countries in the US camp before June 30, 1971. The parties concerned will immediately discuss measures to ensure safety for the withdrawal of all US troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the US camp and the release of captured militarymen.

"2. A cease-fire will be put into effect between the SVN PLAF and the armed forces of the RSVN and a Saigon administration without Thieu, Ky and Khiem, that adheres to peace, independence, neutrality and democracy have, come to terms on the formation of a provisional coalition government in order to organize general elections as proposed in the RSVN PRG-Sept. 17, 1970 statement.

"3. The parties concerned will together work out measures to honour and strictly implement the agreements reached."

Nixon made his cease-fire offer at a time when nearly 400,000 US troops were daily perpetrating crimes against our people, when the bellicose and rotten puppet Thieu-Ky-Khien administration was terrorizing and victimizing the people, when there still was no guarantee for the fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. Such a course of action would amount to legalizing the occupation

of the US expeditionary troops and the Thieu-Ky-Khien regime and asking the South Vietnamese people to surrender. We strongly denounce and reject it as a tricky move.

In the sacred fight for independence and freedom, the strength of the bloc of great national unity has proved invincible. Great unity has been a very fine traditional trait of the nation, a source of her signal success and vigorous vitality. In the past, at present and in the future, for the sake of the nation's great cause, and of the generations to come, we advocate national unity, broad unity, which enables all Vietnamese to live in harmony and frustrate all schemes of the US imperialists and their lackeys—the Thieu-Ky-Khien trio of traitors—to "Vietnamize" the war and fratricidal war. After the re-establishment of peace, we shall continue to strengthen the solidarity of all segments of the people, provide facilities and incentives for everybody to contribute his talent and energy to heal the war wounds, restore to normal the life of the people and build a prosperous and strong country.

This policy of great unity has been given a consistent expression in the Political Programme of the SVN NFL and the Programme of Action of the RSVN PRG as well as the 10-point overall solution and the Sept. 17, 1970 8-point initiative.

We have always been for broad unity among all sections of the people, political parties and groups, organizations, nationalities, religious communities, patriotic personalities and all people irrespective of their political leanings, regardless of their past activities, provided they favour peace, independence and neutrality so as to join forces in resisting the US imperialists and their lackeys and regain our inalienable national rights. We are prepared to co-operate and joint actions with all forces and individuals belonging to various political tendencies and religious communities at home and abroad, including those in the present Saigon administration, except Thieu, Ky, Khien, and standing for peace, independence, democracy

and neutrality, and hold negotiations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, without either side using pressure against the other, so as to achieve a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam. We welcome all units of individual officers and men, policemen, personnel and functionaries of the Saigon puppet administration, whatever their past records, who want in all sincerity to return to the national fold; any forces or individuals supporting, or taking part in, the anti-US struggle for national salvation will be appropriately treated according to their merits. We are prepared to support and co-ordinate with all Vietnamese groups which have broken away from the US and Thieu-Ky-Khien and contract an alliance with them in the formation of an eventual coalition administration.

To settle South Viet Nam's internal affairs when peace has been re-established, we suggest the formation of a coalition government with the following 3 components:

- Personalities of the PRG of the RSVN,
- Personalities of the Saigon administration without Thieu, Ky and Khien, having really at heart peace, independence, democracy and neutrality,
- Personalities belonging to various political and religious groups and tendencies upholding peace, independence, democracy and neutrality including those who, for political reasons, have had to take up residence abroad.

Our proposal for such a provisional triangular coalition government will unmistakably show our fair and reasonable policy of broad unity and sincere desire to co-operate. It has won widespread approval from South Vietnamese and world public opinion.

The provisional coalition government will organize really free and democratic general elections without foreign interference and without pressure from either side, in order to constitute a National Assembly which will be the epitome of

(Continued page 6)

VIET NAM COURIER